

Eucalyptus clandestina (Myrtaceae), a new bloodwood from central Queensland

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Summary

Bean, A.R. (1994). *Eucalyptus clandestina* (Myrtaceae), a new bloodwood from central Queensland. *Austrobaileya* 4(2): 205–208. *Eucalyptus clandestina*, is described and illustrated, and is compared to related species. Notes on distribution, habitat and conservation status are given.

Keywords: Myrtaceae, *Eucalyptus* - Queensland, *Eucalyptus clandestina*

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Introduction

The recent comprehensive treatment of the genus *Eucalyptus* L'Hérit. (Chippendale 1988) included all species described before January 1987. Since that time, many new species have been described from all parts of Australia. A significant proportion of these belong to the bloodwood group, with which this paper is concerned. The identity of bloodwoods as a group is discussed by Brooker and Bean (1991). New bloodwood species have been described by Brooker and Bean (1987), Carr and Carr (1987), Bean and Brooker (1989) and Brooker and Bean (1991). The species described here belongs to *E.* series *Terminaliptera* Maiden (Chippendale 1988), one of six validly published bloodwood series recognised by Brooker and Bean (1991). In the alternative informal classification of Pryor and Johnson (1971), it belongs to *E.* subgenus *Corymbia*, section *Rufaria*, series *Gummiferae*. In another informal classification by Carr and Carr (1987), the new species belongs in their *E.* series *Gummiferae*.

Taxonomy

Eucalyptus clandestina A.R. Bean sp. nov.
affinis *E. lamprophylla* a qua fructibus minoribus, pedicellis longioribus, plantulis glabris ultra nodum septimum differt.
Typus: Queensland. SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT. 34.2km from Clermont, along

road to Alpha, 24 September 1990, A.R. Bean 2399 (holo: BRI; iso: CANB, NSW).

Tree 6–10 m tall with grey flaky tessellated bloodwood bark on the trunk and branches greater than 3 cm diameter; underbark yellowish or reddish; terminal branches smooth barked. Cotyledons reniform, c. 6 × 9 mm; seedling leaves with petioles 1–3 mm long, narrow-lanceolate, 25–60 × 6–9 mm, not peltate, discolorous, somewhat glossy, opposite for many pairs; base cuneate; apex obtuse or acute. Stems and abaxial leaf midribs of young seedlings sparsely covered by bristle-glands, seedlings glabrous beyond node seven. Juvenile leaves with petioles 2–4 mm long, narrow-lanceolate, 55–105 × 8–16 mm, strongly discolorous, somewhat glossy on adaxial surface, glabrous, subopposite; base cuneate; apex obtuse to acuminate. Adult leaves with petioles 8–14 mm long, narrow-lanceolate, 80–115 × 10–20 mm, strongly discolorous, somewhat glossy on adaxial surface, alternate; base cuneate; apex acuminate; venation densely reticulate; main lateral veins set at a wide angle to the midrib and terminating at an intramarginal vein, oil glands small and scattered. Conflorences apparently terminal, compound. Umbellasters 7-flowered; peduncles angular, 5–7 mm long; pedicels slender, terete, 6–8 mm long; buds ovoid to clavate, to 8 × 5 mm, smooth, minutely punctate. Opercula more or less conical, c. 2 mm long, both shed at anthesis. Stamens fully inflexed in bud, all fertile. Fruits pedicellate, ovoid to urceolate, 10–14 × 7–10 mm, smooth,

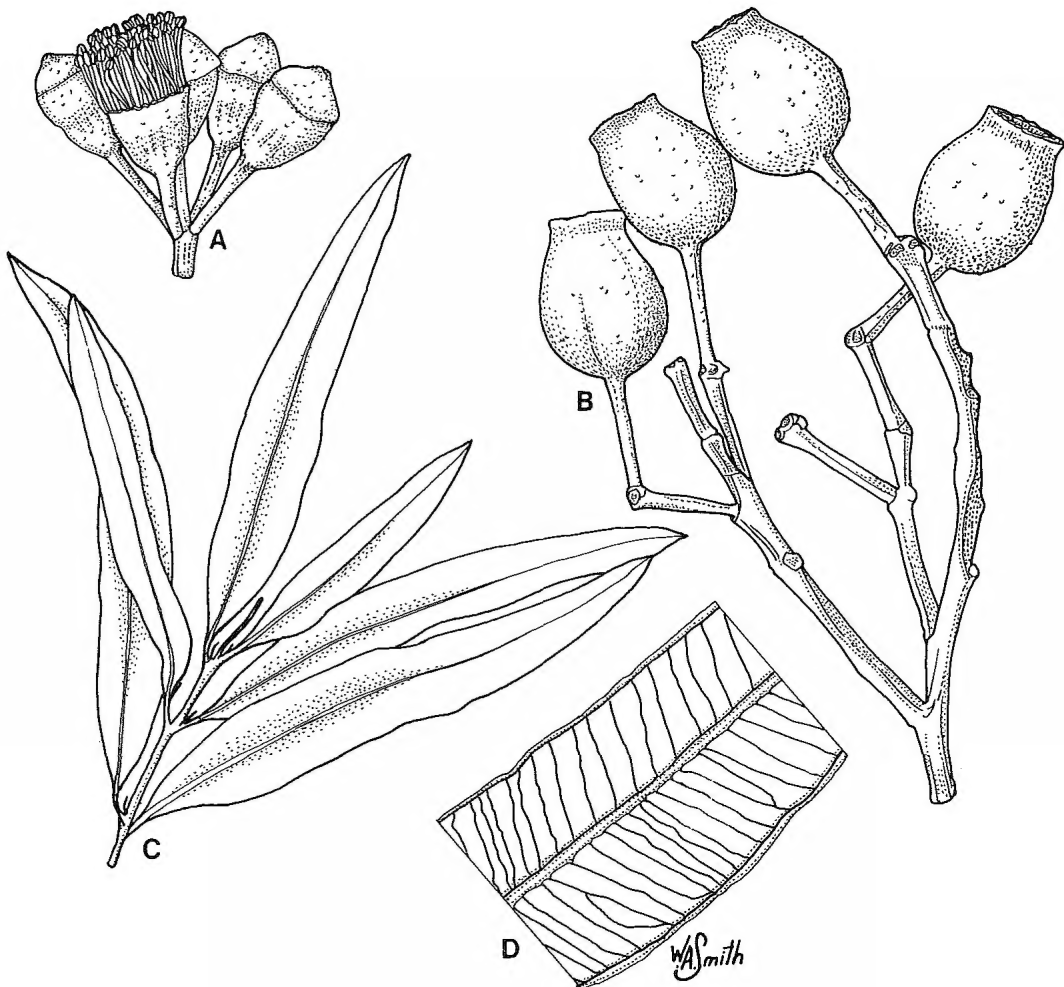


Fig. 1. *Eucalyptus clandestina*: A. buds $\times 2$. B. fruits $\times 2$. C. juvenile leaves $\times 1$. D. juvenile leaf $\times 4$. A,B, Bean 5768; C,D, Bean 2319.

grey; disc descending; valves deeply enclosed, usually four, occasionally three; seeds brown with a long terminal wing. **Fig 1.**

Specimens examined: Queensland. LEICHHARDT DISTRICT: on Laglan road, about 29 km W of Clermont, Belyando Shire, Aug 1988, *Anderson* 4497 (BRI). SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Clermont-Laglan road, 31.7 km from Clermont, Sep 1990, *Bean* 2318 (BRI,CANB ,NSW); ditto, *Bean* 2319 (BRI); 32 km along Laglan road, NW of Clermont, Feb 1993, *Bean* 5766 (BRI); 29.8 km along Laglan road, NW of Clermont, Feb 1993, *Bean* 5768 (BRI,CANB).

Distribution and Habitat: *E. clandestina* has a very restricted distribution on the Drummond Range west of Clermont **Fig 2**. It grows on hillsides in reddish to grey loamy soils where it forms a minor component of woodland

dominated by *Eucalyptus crebra* F. Muell. Other associated species include *E. papuana* F. Muell., *E. melanophloia* F. Muell. and *Acacia rhodoxylon* Maiden.

Phenology: Known to flower in February, but full flowering period unknown.

Conservation status: *E. clandestina* is not conserved and is currently known from just two stands, each of less than 100 trees. Hence an appropriate coding is 2V (cf. Briggs & Leigh 1988).

Affinities: *E. clandestina* is closely related to both *E. lamprophylla* Brooker & A.R. Bean and *E. arnhemensis* D.J. Carr & S.G.M. Carr.

E. clandestina differs from *E. lamprophylla* by its smaller fruits, longer pedicels and glabrous seedlings beyond node seven. *E. clandestina* differs from *E. arnhemensis* by its glabrous seedling leaves between nodes 7 and 12, its persistent bark, and its lack

of indumentum on adult foliage. These differences are summarised in **Table 1**. *E. clandestina* has the smallest fruits of all central Queensland bloodwoods with the exception of *E. trachyphloia* F. Muell.

Table 1. Comparison of *E. clandestina* with *E. lamprophylla* and *E. arnhemensis*.

	<i>E. clandestina</i>	<i>E. lamprophylla</i>	<i>E. arnhemensis</i>
fruit size	10–14 × 7–10mm	to 18 × 14 mm	10–15 × 10 mm
abaxial surface of adult leaves	glabrous	glabrous	indumentum of single celled hairs
pedicel length	6–8 mm	0–2 mm	2–7 mm
seedling leaves	glabrous beyond node 7	hairs persisting beyond node 12	glabrous beyond node 12
bark	rough to small branches	rough to small branches	rough on trunk, branches smooth

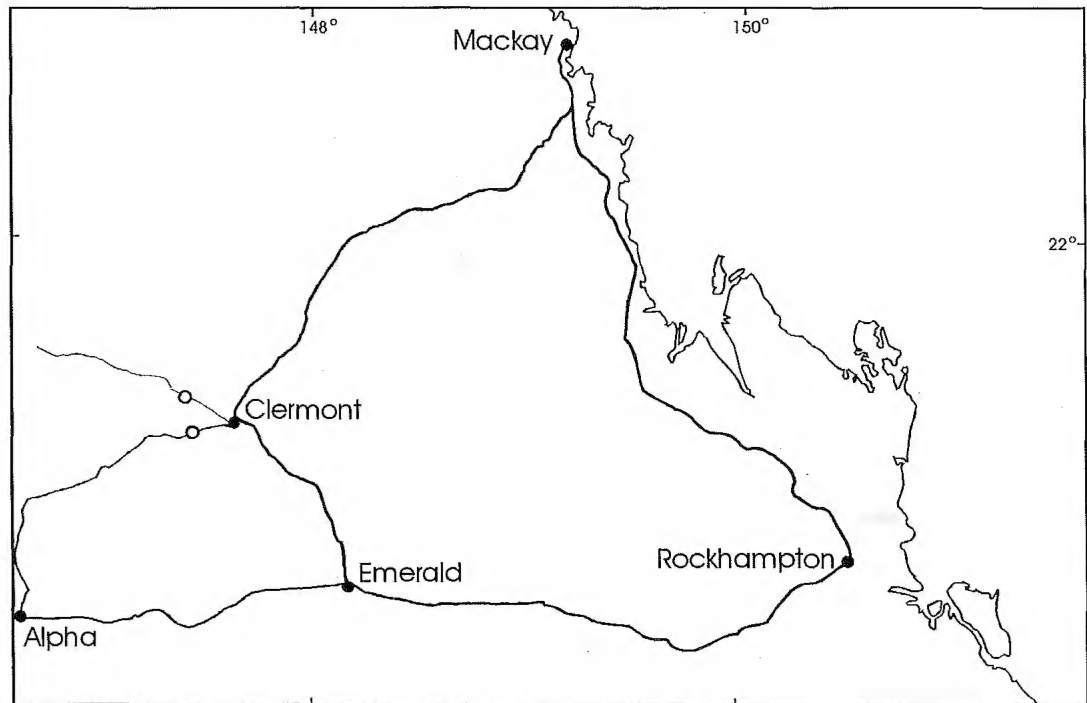


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Eucalyptus clandestina* (open circles).

Etymology: The species epithet is derived from the Latin word *clandestinus*, meaning 'to be hidden, secretive', and refers to the small populations of this species "hidden" amongst the abundant ironbarks in the area.

Acknowledgements

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